



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (15-5499)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña, Vice Chairperson Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, Commissioner Johanna Arias-Bhatia, Commissioner Percy Duran III, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Theresa Zhen

Excused: Commissioner Susan Burton, Commissioner Keren M. Goldberg and Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Staff present: Bolaji Famuyiwa, Roy Sinclair and Jenny Kimbell. (15-5501)

Call to Order. (15-5397)

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. Commissioner Duran joined the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the November 4, 2015 Minutes. (15-5398)

On motion of Vice Chair Barbara Bigby, seconded by Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

2. Department of Auditor-Controller (AC). (15-5400)

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report during the month of October 2015:

There were a total of 25 Hotline Requests for Assistance Calls.

- **22 Youth callers**
- **3 Adult callers**

In continuing her report, Ms. Day reported that there were 11 Outreach visits to the following facilities:

- **B & I Group Home**
- **Careprovider Children & Family Services**
- **Garces Residential Care Services**
- **Junior Blind of America**
- **Human Services Network**
- **Crittenton Services for Children and Families**
- **Childhelp**

3. Internal Services Department (ISD). (15-5401)

There was no representative present to report.

4. Department of Mental Health (DMH). (15-5402)

Ms. Zoe Trachtenberg, LCSW, Program Director, DMH, presented a follow-up report to the Commissioners request to invite individuals from the DMH to address questions regarding access to services in Service Planning Area 6 (SPA 6) and the Field Capable Clinical Services (FCCS) funding. She reported that the request and the date of the SBC business meetings were provided to the administration office and she is waiting their response.

5. Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). (15-5403)

Patricia Bolanos Gonzalez, Children Services Administrator II, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, reported that during the month of October 2015 there were a total of 776 Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and the child abuse hotline received a total of 21 referrals in the following categories:

- 10 Physical Abuse (PA)
- 2 Emotional Abuse (EA)
- 5 Sexual Abuse (SA)
- 4 General Neglect (GN)

Total referrals closed: 38

- 1 EA
- 10 GN
- 15 SA
- 12 PA

Ms. Bolanons Gonzalez also reported that three Group Homes are currently on HOLD:

- Lifecircles
- Sand Hill Group Home
- Macro Group Home

6. Probation Department (PD). (15-5405)

Ms. Pamela Pease, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Group Home Monitoring and Investigations Unit, Placement Services Bureau, PD, provided the status of group home AWOLs for the month of October 2015 as follows:

There were AWOLs involving 90 youth:

- 36 Remain AWOL
- 18 Returned to group homes
- 2 Camp Community Placement
- 34 Placed in Juvenile Hall

Ms. Pease also provided the Commission with detailed monthly status reports of group home AWOLs during the months of October 2015.

Mr. Michael Varela, Director of Dorothy Kirby Center, provided the Commission with a roster of the Directors of the camps. This will aid the Commissioners with identifying and having the contact information while inspecting camps. Mr. Varela also invited the Commissioners to the Christmas Extravaganza and informed them that improvements have been made at the Dorothy Kirby center with upgrades by repainting to add more color to the facility. He further reported that all the electrical systems have been changed.

7. Sheriff's Department (SD). (15-5406)

Commander Henry Romero reported that they followed-up on the Commission's request from the last meeting and informed the Commission that inmate Crosby was seen by the doctor and released from custody on November 13, 2015. He also reported that inmates were removed from unit 4700 and will no longer be housed there. He further reported that there is no set schedule for the Townhall meetings and advised the Commission to contact the stations Watch Commander or Captain for their meeting schedule. To conclude his report Commander Romero informed the Commission that he checked the vending machine prices and reported that all the machines on the inside have the same price value and they only differ with the machines on the outside.

Commissioner Zhen requested a follow-up on the unanswered grievances from inmate Crosby and the resources that he was released with.

Commissioner Grills advised the Commander to visit units 9100, 9200 and 9300's to verify vending machine prices and to follow-up on the issues raised to the Sheriff at the August and September 2015 meetings regarding inmates having to purchase their own cleaning supplies because they don't have enough.

Commissioner Arias-Bhatia advised Commander Romero to follow-up on inmate #3118678 that is suffering from a growth on his left wrist.

III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

8. Chairperson's Report on various items. (15-5407)

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Daily Breeze Newspaper Article with the Commission:

The Sex Traffic in Children (November 15, 2015).

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

9. Treasurer's Report. (15-5408)

Commissioner Andrews reported that the balance of the Commissioner's Charitable Fund remains at \$408.90.

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10. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports. (15-5409)

Twila Kerr, Chief, Commission Services, reported that at its meeting held on November 17, 2015, the Board of Supervisors approved the SBC Ordinance stipends paid to the Commissioners for attending meetings and inspections not to exceed \$150 a week. She also reported that the requirement for SBC to conduct annual elections of officers for Chair and Vice Chair was also approved. She further reported that the sunset review has been referred back to the Audit Committee pending the conclusion of the CEO's review of all the County Commissions' roles and responsibilities. Ms. Kerr also answered question posed by the Commissioners regarding the Ordinance.

11. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from November 5, 2015 to November 17, 2015. (15-5410)

During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

Chairperson Montaña visited:

- Orange County Children's Foundation (Marabella Ave., Carson, CA) on November 10, 2015.

Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited:

- Positive Path Youth Development Center, Inc (Neptune Ave., Carson, CA) on November 9, 2015.
- Torrance Courthouse (Maple Ave., Torrance, CA) on November 13, 2015.
- West Hollywood Station (San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, CA) on November 16, 2015.
- Olive Crest Treatment Center (Cornuta Ave., Bellflower, CA) on November 17, 2015.

Vice Chairperson Bigby visited:

- Burbank Court (Olive Street, Burbank, CA) on November 5, 2015.
- Garces Residential (Mountain Ave., Claremont, CA) on November 6, 2015.
- Heritage Group Home (Baseline Rd., La Verne, CA) on November 13, 2015.

Commissioner Arias Bhatia visited:

- St. Anne's Maternity Home (Occidental Blvd., Los Angeles, CA) on November 10, 2015.

Commissioner Andrews visited:

- Marina Del Rey Station (Fiji Way, Marina Del Rey, CA) on November 13, 2015.

Commissioner Grills visited:

- Humanistic Foundation (62nd Street, Los Angeles, CA) on November 16, 2015.
- Junior Blind of America (Angeles Vista Blvd., Los Angeles, CA) on November 16, 2015.

During the reporting period, the following facility was reported as being in unsatisfactory condition:

Vice Chairperson Bigby and Commissioners Duran and Arias-Bhatia visited:

- Men's Central Jail (Bauchet Street, Los Angeles, CA) on November 11, 2015 and reported the following:
 - 4700 is now closed and all inmates have been removed
 - 3600 A - Cell sinks are not working and there is no hot water in the entire row
 - An inmate expressed concern about unclean food trays
 - Unit 3100 - Cell 21 an inmate has expressed that he has been waiting for a month to see a nurse regarding the pain in his mouth
 - Inmate has complained about problems with shoes
 - Inmate #3118678 has a growth on his left wrist that requires attention

Unavailable:

Vice Chairperson Bigby visited:

- Rosemary Children's Services (Bonnie Ave., Pasadena, CA) on November 10, 2015.

IV. DISCUSSIONS

12. Discussion on how the SBC should continue to utilize the corrective action form. (15-5412)

This item was continued to the December 2, 2015 meeting.

13. Discussion regarding the quarterly report to the Board of Supervisors. (15-5411)

Commissioner Arias-Bhatia recommended that the Commission create a system for collecting and reporting data to aid them in preparing the

quarterly and annual reports to the Board of Supervisors. She shared handouts that displayed sample templates. She also recommended that the SBC establish a strategic plan that will outline their goals and provide quarterly updates.

After discussion, a sub-committee was formed to develop a reporting system to the Board of Supervisors. Members of the sub-committee are Commissioners Zhen, Arias-Bhatia, Grills and Vice Chairperson Bigby.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

14. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-5413)

The following item was introduced for discussion and will be placed on a future agenda:

Discussion and action regarding the election of officers

Public Comment

15. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-5414)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

16. Adjournment for the meeting of November 18, 2015. (15-5415)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of November 18, 2015 at 11:56 a.m. in memory of Nohemi Gonzalez.